

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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Editorial

From Another World

Scientific people have recently been somewhat excited over what was supposed to be signals from the planet Mars. Bright spots and flashes of light were seen at certain points on the neighbor planet, and it was supposed that the highly enlightened citizens of that world were endeavoring to communicate with us. Mr. Tesla, the distinguished electrician and inventor, thinks that such interplanetary communication will be one of the triumphs of the present century, and indeed when we read of the wonderful discoveries of wireless telegraphy, one is made to think that perhaps after all, since it is now no longer necessary to set up poles and stretch wires in order to send telegraphic messages, we may possibly be sending and receiving messages between earth, Mars, Venus, Jupiter, and may be all the inhabited planets of our solar system. There is no doubt about there being planets, some of them as large and some larger than the earth, and constituted very much like our world. For instance the bright spots observed on the planet Mars were, by means of the big telescopes, seen to be clouds on which the sun was shining. Mars has rivers, seas, clouds, islands, a daily rotation on its axis, an annual rotation around the sun, in fact about all the natural phenomena belonging to our own world. He has light and warmth from our own sun, and the inquiry naturally arises why are all these things just so, why did God make another such world, several of them in fact in our particular solar system, unless for the habitation of his intelligent creatures? If they are there, which we take for granted, and have also like us discovered the law of wireless telegraphy, it is merely a question of sending communications thru the intervening ether, in terms understandable to both parties. Maybe before we die we will be reading daily dispatches from Mars and Venus.

But whether this come to pass or not, we are fully persuaded that there is such a thing as spiritual messages between worlds else why should we pray? There is certainly a spiritual medium of communication, and experimental Christianity fully appreciates its value. We can talk with God, and God can talk with us. Unbelief denies this miracle, but the Christian has no idea that God has boarded up the dividing line between this and the spiritual world so that no communication can pass from the one to the other. We know there is such a thing as prayer, and while we have this blessed privilege of communication with the spiritual world, we can afford to wait God's own time for interplanetary communication of a more material kind. Perhaps there is a good providential reason why the latter triumph

of science should be indefinitely postponed. Suppose that the planet Mars and the planet Venus, worlds the nearest like ours in size and natural characteristics, are really inhabited with an intelligent and highly developed population; and suppose further, as we sincerely hope, that they are sinless creatures, would it be edifying to them to come into communication with this dirty world of ours, and have their daily papers suddenly flooded with the details of our innumerable and unnamable iniquities? What if they should suddenly learn about our wars and murders, our slums, our dens of vice, our saloons, ideas until then totally unknown to them, what would be the effect? We would all say at once that if there are a good and happy people in those worlds living in total ignorance of sin, may the Lord keep them in ignorance. And we think that as long as these iniquities prevail on the earth, the Lord is very likely to hide the effectual means of interplanetary communication. We dwellers in the earth should be heartily ashamed of the fact that we keep such a filthy world down here that we have to be isolated from other worlds very much as we isolate Small Pox and Yellow Fever. In other words the worlds all around us are quarantined against us, to protect them from contagion. We ought to be ashamed of ourselves, and we ought to go to work and clean up house so that we would be fit for the society of decent people who live in our neighbor worlds.

Important Legislation

Two very influential legislative bodies, the American Congress and the French Chamber of Deputies, have recently decreed legislation of the greatest importance, and eminently worthy of two highly civilized nations at the beginning of the twentieth century. The French Parliament has prohibited the sale of Absynthe, a narcotic stimulant of unusual wickedness; and the Senate of the United States has just passed a bill providing that international treaties shall be made as will effectually prohibit the sale to all aboriginal tribes and uncivilized races of firearms, opium, and intoxicating beverages. Still more important and gratifying is the Senate bill just passed by a large majority, prohibiting the canteen. It remains to be seen, however, whether the government will find means of nullifying this last anti canteen law as it did the other. It is thought that the bill just passed is couched in such equivocal terms as to defy nullification. It absolutely prohibits the sale of beer, wines and all other intoxicants at army posts, or on any territory under the jurisdiction under the military. If this law is carried out in its letter and spirit, it will put an end to the iniquity of the army saloon. Several leading senators, including Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, pointed out that the five